



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,424	08/05/2003	Yoshimi Tsujiyama	JCLA11962	7330
23900	7590	03/21/2005	EXAMINER	
J C PATENTS, INC. 4 VENTURE, SUITE 250 IRVINE, CA 92618			TORRES VELAZQUEZ, NORCA LIZ	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1771	
DATE MAILED: 03/21/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/635,424

Applicant(s)

TSUJIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Norca L. Torres-Velazquez

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed December 30, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. Applicants have amended the independent claim 1 to further claim that the relation of the average diameter of the nonelastomeric fiber to the average diameter of the long elastomeric fiber is $\geq 25/18$. The Applicants indicate that support for such amendment is found in Example 26 and in Table 3.

It is the Examiner's position that Collier, IV et al. still reads on the present claims because the reference teaches that both the nonelastomeric and the elastomeric fibers of their invention are "microfibers" with an average diameter not greater than about 100 μm , for example, 0.5 to 50 μm . (Col. 2, lines 28-33) Therefore, the presently claimed combination of diameters would have been recognized in the art of Collier, IV et al. since nothing of record precludes it otherwise. With regards to claim 2, it is noted that Example 26 shows a spunbonded material and claim 2 claims a melt-blown material. With regards to the properties of elongation and separation resistance claimed herein, the Examiner maintains here position that these would have been inherent to the elastic nonwoven web of COLLIER, IV et al. It is further noted that the values shown in Example 26 of the present invention are representative of a spunbonded nonwoven made from fibers of styrene-ethylenebutylene-styrene block copolymer (B-1) and fibers of a specific composition of polypropylene (A-1), while the

present claims are directed to elastomeric and nonelastomeric fibers which are broader in scope than the presented example 26. Further, claim 3 claims that the elastomeric fiber comprises at least one of the group consisting of elastomeric polystyrenes and elastomeric polyolefins, which are still broader in scope than the presented example 26.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-7 is maintained herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over COLLIER, IV et al. (US 5,260,126).

COLLIER, IV et al. discloses elastic nonwoven webs of fibers. The reference teaches that the elastic nonwoven web of fibers may be a web of meltblown fibers or spunbonded fibers. The meltblown may be microfibers. The elastic nonwoven web may also include at least one type of nonelastic fibers, for example nonelastic microfibers, which are distributed within or upon the matrix. The nonelastic fibers may be selected from the group including polyester

Art Unit: 1771

fibers, polyolefin fibers, among others. If the nonelastic fibers are polyolefin fibers, the polyolefin fibers may be selected from, for example, polyethylene fibers or polypropylene fibers. If nonelastic fibers are present in the elastic nonwoven web, the elastic nonwoven web may generally include from about 20 percent, by weight, to about 99 percent, by weight, of fibers formed from a styrene-poly(ethylenepropylene)-styrene blend and from about 1 percent, by weight to 80 percent, by weight, of the nonelastic fibers. (Col. 5, lines 1-37) On Table 1 of the reference, some physical properties of the styrene-poly(ethylenepropylene)-styrene block copolymer used by the reference are disclosed. (Col. 7) *With regards to the average diameter of the fibers and the relation of diameters between the elastomeric and nonelastomeric fibers, it is the Examiner's interpretation that the teaching of using microfibers (of diameters of about 100 microns or less, for example, 0.5-50 microns) reads on the values claimed herein and therefore the relation of the diameters of the fibers would be expected from their teachings. (Refer to col. 2, lines 28-33)* With regards to claim 6, it is noted that the reference teaches using their nonwoven in application such as pants, dresses, blouses, among others. (Col.1 lines 18-25)

Although COLLIER, IV et al. does not explicitly teach the claimed elongation recovery rate and separation resistance it is reasonable to presume that these properties are inherent to the elastic nonwoven web of COLLIER, IV et al. Support for said presumption is found in the use of like materials (i.e. an elastic nonwoven web made from meltblown fibers that include elastic and nonelastic fibers). The burden is upon Applicant to prove otherwise. *In re Fitzgerald* 205 USPQ 594. In addition, the presently claimed properties of elongation recover rate and separation resistance would obviously have been present one the COLLIER, IV et al. product is

Art Unit: 1771

provided. Note In re Best, 195 USPQ at 433, footnote 4 (CCPA 1977) as to the providing of this rejection made above under 35 USC 102.

5. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over COLLIER, IV et al. as applied above, and further in view of ROMANEK (US 4,446,189).

While COLLIER, IV et al. teaches the use of their nonwoven in fiber product applications, the reference is silent to laminating the nonwoven.

ROMANEK is directed to a nonwoven textile fabric laminate that comprises at least one layer of nonwoven textile fabric laminated to an elastic layer. (Abstract, Figures 5-7)

Since both references are directed to elastic web materials, the purpose disclosed by ROMANEK would have been recognized in the pertinent art of COLLIER, IV et al.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to laminate the elastic web of COLLIER, IV et al. to a textile fabric with the motivation of producing a high bulk textile product having elasticity or resiliency for use in such applications as wearing apparel to allow enhanced freedom of movement for the wearer of such apparel as disclosed by ROMANEK. (Col. 1, lines 10-16).

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

Art Unit: 1771

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Norca L. Torres-Velazquez whose telephone number is 571-272-1484. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Norca L. Torres-Velazquez
Examiner
Art Unit 1771

March 7, 2005